**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the Related Applications paragraph beginning at page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/965,116, filed on September 26, 2001 (now US Patent No. 7,262,286), which ~~This application~~ is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/712,898 (now abandoned), filed on November 15, 2000, and ~~This application~~ which also claims ~~priority from~~ the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application serial nos. 60/235,452 and 60/235,453, both filed on September 26, 2000. Each of the patent applications listed above is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

At pages 7-9, please replace the description of Figures 1-26 and insert therefore the following paragraphs:

Figures 1A-1B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:8-23) having 1',2'-dideoxyribose substitutions at various positions.

Figures 2A-2B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:8-23) having 1',2'-dideoxyribose substitutions at various positions.

Figures 3A-3B shows results of proliferation assays using difference oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 105-110) having 1',2'-dideoxyribose substitutions at various positions.

Figures 4A-4B shows results of spleen weight assays using different oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 105-110) having 1',2'-dideoxyribose substitutions at various positions.

Figures 5A-5B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 8, 24-34) having C3-linker substitutions at various positions.

Figures 6A-6B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 8, 24-34) having C3-linker substitutions at various positions.

Figures 7A-7B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 8, 35-42) having Spacer 9 or Spacer 18 substitutions at various positions.

Figures 8A-8B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 8, 35-42) having Spacer 9 or Spacer 18 substitutions at various positions.

Figures 9A-9B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 43-47) having amino-linker substitutions at various positions.

Figures 10A-10B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 43-47) having amino-linker substitutions at various positions.

Figures 11A-11B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID Nos:1, 8, 48-56) having 3'-deoxynucleoside substitutions at various positions.

Figures 12A-12B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 8, 48-56) having 3'-deoxynucleoside substitution at various positions.

Figures 13A-13B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 57-68) having methylphosphonate substitutions at various positions.

Figures 14A-14B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 57-68) having methylphosphonate substitutions at various positions.

Figures 15A-15B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:69-72) having 2'-O-methylribonucleoside or 2'-O-methoxyethyl substitutions at various positions.

Figures 16A-16B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:69-72) having 2'-O-methylribonucleoside or 2'-O-methoxyethyl substitutions at various positions.

Figures 17A-17B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:73-80) having 5'-3', 5'-5', or 3'-3' linkage substitutions at various positions.

Figures 18A-18B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 81-88) having β-L-deoxynucleotide substitutions at various positions.

Figures 19A-19B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 89-90) having 2'-O-propargyl substitutions at various positions.

Figures 20A-20B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:8 91-95) having various substitution at various positions.

Figures 21A-21C shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 96-100) having 7-deazaguanine substitution within the immunostimulatory dinucleotide.

Figures 22A-22B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 101, 102) having 6-thioguanine substitution within the immunostimulatory dinucleotide.

Figures 23A-23B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1-5) having 5-hydroxycytosine or N4-ethylcytosine substitution within the immunostimulatory dinucleotide.

Figures 24A-24B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1-5) having 5-hydroxycytosine or N4-ethylcytosine substitution within the immunostimulatory dinucleotide.

Figures 25A-25B shows results of proliferation assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 111-112) having arabinofuranosylcytosine (aracytidine: Ara-C) substitution within the immunostimulatory dinucleotide.

Figures 26A-26B shows results of spleen weight assays using oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOs:1, 103-104) having 4-thiouracil substitution within the immunostimulatory dinucleotide.